NSF & HAWAII

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the National Science Foundation made $54,175,000 in awards to Hawaii in support of fundamental research, advanced technical education, entrepreneurial training, STEM teacher training, long-term ecological monitoring, small business development, major research instrumentation, and more.

DID YOU KNOW?

IMPACT | In 2018, the University of Hawaii was awarded a $23,728,219 five-year cooperative agreement to continue operating the R/V Kilo Moana, a research vessel owned by the US Navy and operated by the University as part of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) Academic Research Fleet (ARF). Home ported in Honolulu, HI, it is the only ARF vessel based in the central North Pacific Ocean, and provides access to the sea to any US researcher funded by NSF or another US Federal agency. A particular focus of research using R/V Kilo Moana is the Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) site at Station ALOHA, an important site for study of biogeochemistry, oceanography, climate and plankton ecology and microbiology processes in the oligotrophic subtropical North Pacific Ocean.

STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | NSF’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program addresses the need for a high-quality STEM workforce in STEM disciplines supported by the program, and for the increased success of low-income, academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate or graduate degrees in STEM. With $999,457 in funding from the NSF S-STEM program in FY 2018, the project will support high-achieving, low-income students with demonstrated financial need at Chaminade University of Honolulu. Throughout its five years of funding, the project will provide 18 scholarships to students who are pursuing bachelor’s degrees in biology or environmental science. The program is funded by H-1B visa fees, so is not subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS | NSF made $779,000 in awards in FY 2019 in support of graduate students through NSF’s flagship Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which supports students pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees in STEM disciplines.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING INDICATORS | 3.33% of the Hawaii workforce is employed in S&E occupations, as of 2018, and 7.34% of Hawaii’s business establishments are industries with high employment in science, engineering and technology occupations.*

FACILITIES | The Gemini Observatory consists of twin optical/infrared 8-meter telescopes, one each in the northern and southern hemispheres, thereby providing complete coverage of the sky. Fundamental questions being investigated are the age and rate of expansion of the universe, the origin of dark energy, the nature of non-luminous matter, and the birth of stars and their planetary systems. Gemini North is located on Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii. The Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) is the world’s most powerful solar observatory. It will enable the study of magnetic phenomena from the solar photosphere to the outer corona. These magnetic phenomena drive the space weather that impacts the Earth. DKIST is located on Haleakala in Maui, Hawaii.